



02-278

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Ms. Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Ms. Abernathy,

While visiting the State of New Jersey website, I was informed that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) wanted to weaken and even overturn New Jersey's Do Not Call Law. New Jersey's law is stricter than the federal law and in fact is the strongest Do Not Call law of the nation. But most importantly, it is one of the most successful consumer protection laws. It has come to my attention that the FCC wants to weaken New Jersey's law because some businesses believe it is their right to call those consumers with whom they had conducted business with in the 18 months before.

My family enjoys being able to sit down for a peaceful dinner without any interruptions, especially from telemarketers. Before the Do Not Call Law was put into effect in New Jersey, we had to deal with an excessive amount of telephone calls from telemarketers in the middle of "dinnertime conversation." Many times, we ignored the calls and let the answering machine run, however they did not stop and merely wasted space on the answering machine tape. My family and many other families were elated to know these vexing calls would come to an end in 2004. After asking a variety of people of their opinions on the weakening of New Jersey's law, I have come to the conclusion that many citizens support the stringency. They also would prefer not to have any businesses calling them, despite the relationship that was formed between the consumer

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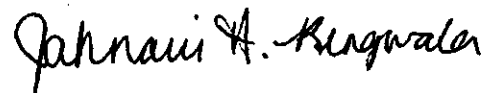
and the seller in the 18-month time span unless they inform the company that it was fine to do so.

Although the New Jersey Do Not Call Law is stricter than the federal law, it should not be weakened for several reasons. First of all, the austere law protects the privacy of the citizens and allows them to enjoy peaceful evenings, free of any bothersome phone calls. Furthermore, the privacy and personal time of the population of New Jersey is respected. Even though companies may feel they have the right to call those with whom recently conducted business with, it is the right of those people to refuse the calls.

However, a way that those companies can contact the consumers for any reason, such as promotions or special sales, is by permission given to them by the recent customers. At the time of the dealing between the customer and the company, the customer should be able to sign a document saying that it is fine with them if the company calls to promote products or sales. New Jersey's Do Not Call Law may be hurting some companies, but it is possible to solve that problem in ways other than *weakening it*. The FCC should add a component to the law excluding companies from not being able to call all customers on the Do Not Call List by creating a form that allows the phone calls to be made. New Jersey's law is very efficient and successful and will continue to be so only if it is not weakened from its original form.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider these suggestions.

Very Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jahnavi H. Ringwala". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jahnavi H. Ringwala